Library

DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1961



Including the Report of the Public Health Inspector
(Mr. G. S. Sennitt, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

DR. J. A. SLATTERY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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DR. J. A. SLATTERY, M.B.C.S.; L.R.C.P.; D.P.H.

D O W N H A M R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

Offices: London Road, Downham Market.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:-

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Mr. H. Gates	Mr. F. Starling
Mr. F. Green	Mr. S.F.L. Warner
Mr. C.W. Thornhill	Mr. E. J. Wright
Mr. M. L. Hutson	Mr. L. J. Bell
Mr. H.C. Walden	Mr. A. Hipperson
	Mrs E.M. Neville

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

Medical Officer of Health -

DR. J. A. SLATTERY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.
Tel: Downham Market 3241.

also holds appointments of -

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
School Medical Officer.
Medical Officer of Health, Downham Urban District Council.
Medical Officer of Health, Marshland Rural District Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector -

G.S. SENNITT, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Tel: Downham Market 3287. Residence: D.M. 3364

Additional Public Health Inspector -

G. L. FIELD, M.A.P.H.I. (To 30.4.61)
D. R. FORD, M.A.P.H.I. (From 24.7.61)

Clerk to the Health Department -

MRS. G. E. GOOD.

DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Mr. A. E. Bailey	Mr. H. W. Morley
Mr. J. H. Johnson	Mr. J. Norris
Mr. W.H. Bentley	Col. E.R. Pratt
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Mr. H. Oates	Mr. F. Starling
Mr. P. Green	Mr. S.F.L. Warner
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DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee,

I have the honour to present my report for the year ending December 31st, 1961.

The estimated mid year population was - 25,090

Births: There were 437 live births.

The birth rate was 19.67

Deaths: There were 222 deaths.

The death rate was 10.34

I have tried to review some of the more important public health problems which were under discussion during the year. There are some references to your district in particular and these I have included under the separate headings.

LUNG CANCER: There were six deaths from cancer of the lung as there were also in 1960.

The National death rate from lung cancer has increased very considerably in the last 50 years. In 1900 it was 8 per million. In 1958 it was 440 per million. The death rate for heavy smokers is 40 times that for non smokers. In 1957 the Medical Research Council stated that the most reasonable interpretation of this evidence is that cigarette smoking causes cancer. In 1960 The Joint Tuberculosis Council of Great Britain reported that cigarette smoking is an important factor in the development of bronchitis.

Seven deaths are attributed to bronchitis in your area for 1961.

The American Heart Association stated that "the data strongly suggested that heavy cigarette smoking may contribute to or accelerate the development of coronary heart disease or its complications".

Thirty one deaths from coronary heart disease occurred in your area in 1961.

Substances have been found in cigarette smoke which produce cancer in animals. One of these, 3:4 benzopyrene is found in smoke from other sources. It is found in smoke polluted atmospheres. It is hardly surprising therefore that lung cancer is more common in towns than in the country. If we compare one country district with another we find it is more common in those which lie close to towns than it is in really rural places. This is what one would expect because country surrounding a town receives the same smoky atmosphere.

The evidence against cigarettes and against smoke polluted atmosphere is quite strong enough to convince any reasonable man. It has to be accepted that cigarette smoking is thoroughly bad for health. The smoking habit begins in childhood and it is to children that the danger must be explained. There are other good reasons for not smoking but the risk to health is the one which should be stressed because it is the most cogent.

ACCIDENTS: There were seven fatal motor vehicle accidents in 1961, two more than in 1960. There were two fatal accidents other than road accidents, but it is pleasant to report that neither of these took place in the home. National figures for home accidents are worrying.

In 1960 there were over 7,000 fatal home accidents in England and Wales. Two thirds of the casualties were women. Over 650 deaths were from burns and scalds, a type of accident which particularly affects the very young and the very old. Considerable forethought and care are needed to avoid burns and scalds with a family of small

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children. Elderly people, so often handicapped by poor sight, loss of a sense of smell and weak arthritis joints, present a different problem. In an effort to help elderly handicapped people, a gas cooker designed by the Gas Council has been put on the market. It has gas tap handles with lever extensions and pilot lights for each burner so that they light automatically when the taps are turned on. There are very low hire terms for people with reduced means who are handicapped by age or infirmity. Some of the safety devices in this cooker can be put into existing cookers.

FLUORIDATION: The composition of drinking water varies from one part of the country to another. Rain water contains dissolved gasses and particles extracted from the atmosphere. Surface and underground waters contain bacteria, suspended matter and various compounds in solution, their nature and amount depending on the composition of the soil from which they are drawn. Some of these compounds contain fluorine, an element necessary for the formation and preservation of healthy teeth. In some parts of the British Isles fluorine containing compounds (fluorides) are present in the water in amounts considered to be optimal for health. In other parts more is present than the body requires while in certain places, including your area, the water contains only traces of fluorine. I am grateful to the Wisbech and District Water Board for informing me that your water supply has never been found to contain more than .08 parts per million of fluorine.

For more than 60 years it has been noticed that dental caries is much less in areas where the water contains over 1 part per million of fluorine. There is ample experimental evidence of this. In three areas in this Country, Watford, Anglesey and Kilmarnock, fluorine has been added to the public water supply to remedy a deficiency in its natural fluorine content. Dental surveys of children in these areas have been conducted for some years. This is not another experiment. It is a public demonstration of the safety and efficiency of fluoridation in preventing dental decay. The survey ended in 1961 but it will take some time to evaluate the data collected.

There are other recent developments connected with fluorine and teeth. In 1960 the American Dental Association reported that a fluorine containing toothpaste had been tested and found effective against caries. To achieve an effect equivalent to that of drinking fluoridated water a child must clean his teeth with the paste under adult supervision three times a day. Such a campaign would be too exacting for most parents to sustain, and of course it would not cater for the large number of children who never clean their teeth at all. There is another way in which parents can supply the necessary fluorine to their young children. Tablets containing fluorine are on sale and obtainable through chemists. It costs less than 15 shillings to keep one child supplied with fluorine tablets for a whole year. Until fluoridation of water supplies is adopted surely this is a sensible and worthwhile measure.

Before very long you will have to consider your own attitude to fluoridation of water supplies. The problem has many aspects. The only two points I would like to put before you are that it is medically safe and that it is an important aid to the formation of sound, caries resistant teeth.

CARAVANS & HOUSES

The health of caravan dwellers was once more a topic for discussion when in June, 1961, the subject was debated at a Royal Society of Health Meeting. Most Medical Officers of Health do not favour permanent caravan dwelling though it is difficult to find evidence that living in a caravan is detrimental to health. Lack of space is the most important objection. Where a family lives crowded together in one or two rooms many infections spread easily.

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A man with tuberculosis may be able to live in his own home under medical supervision but if his home is a caravan he will probably have to stay in hospital. But the risk of infection is not the greatest objection to caravan life; there are mental health aspects of more importance. Children need the company of their parents but they also need to escape from it. School children in particular need a room in which they can read and play undisturbed. They need drawers and cupboards of their own. These requirements cannot be met by a caravan. For a family a caravan is a poor substitute for a house. Children need space outside the house as well as within it. It is disturbing to see new houses under construction so close together that there is no garden space provided to meet the very real needs of children.

FOOD POISONING: In my report to the Public Health Committee for October last year I mentioned an outbreak of food poisoning. This outbreak was a serious one involving many families. It was fully investigated and I give a detailed account of it now.

On September 22nd I heard by telephone from a general practitioner that food poisoning was suspected. A visit to the village was made at once by the Assistant Public Health Inspector. He obtained the names of suspected victims and the relevant history in each case. All had eaten ready cooked ham bought from a shop in the village. The ham had looked entirely normal. A visit was made to the shop, samples of ham on display in the shop were taken for tests and arrangements were made for no more to be sold.

The following day another visit was made to the shop and swabs were taken from the inside of the meat cabinet which had contained the ham and which still contained other cooked meat. More swabs were taken from working surfaces and from the hands and noses of everyone working in the shop. The results of these investigations were conclusive. Food poisoning germs identical in type were found on the ham sampled at a patient's home, on the ham taken from the shop, on the working surfaces in the food cabinet and on the hands of two of the food handlers. The germs known as staphylococci, are a common cause of food poisoning outbreaks. You will notice how very widespread the contamination can be. The sequence of events was probably as follows. Food poisoning staphylococci alighted on the hands of one of the food handlers in the shop. There is no knowing where they came from. From the infected hands they were transferred to the cooked ham where they were able to multiply and produce their poison. To do this they must have been able to grow on the ham in conditions of moisture and warmth. The germs would spread onto the hands of anyone else who touched the ham and would be left on any plates or trays on which the ham had rested. In this way any other meat could have been infected, and in fact the evidence so strongly suggested that other cooked meat had been infected that all cooked meat in the display cabinets had to be destroyed.

There were no further cases of food poisoning. Measures were taken to disinfect the premises and the hands of those working in the shop were treated with a powerful bacteriacidal cream. More swabs were taken after this. Staphylococci were not found on any of these.

The prevention of food poisoning depends entirely on skilful food handling. It is unfortunately true that the processing which produces the nicest meat is not necessarily that which gives the best margin of safety. Mr. Sennitt may be discussing these aspects in his report but I should like to make a point which may seem an obvious one to you. The Public Health Inspector is the expert on food hygiene. Official visits to food premises are part of his work and he can advise on what he sees, but how often is his advice actively sought by the trade on matters of food handling and display?

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A timely visit from the Public Health Inspector is surely the best insurance the Trade, Shop keeper or Restaurant manager can have against a disastrous outbreak of food poisoning and the loss of trade which follows it.

I should like to record my appreciation for the assistance and support I have had during the year from the Clerk, Public Health Inspector and Members of the Local Health Office staff.

J.A. SLATTERY

Medical Officer of Health.

LOCAL BYELAWS, etc., in operation in the Rural District of Downham containing provisions relating to Health.

		Operating from
1.	Building Byelaws made by the Council	12.12.53.
2.	Clean Food Byelaws made by the Council	14. 8.50.
3.	Byelaws as to the Sanitary Condition and Management of Private Slaughterhouses made by the Council	1. 2.57.
4.	Byelaws made by the Wisbech and District Water Board for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water supplied by them and Regulations to be read in conjunction therewith	30. 5.55.
5.	Byelaws as to Good Rule and Government made by the Norfolk County Council	1. 6.55.
6.	Byelaws made in relation to the Employment of Children by the Norfolk County Council	1.12.49.
7.	Byelaws as to Gates across and adjoining Highways	29.11.34
8.	Byelaws relating to the wearing of collars by dogs and the Norfolk (Control of Dogs) Regulations, 1925	No date specified
9.	Byelaws and Regulations relating to Nursing Homes made by the Norfolk County Council	No date specified

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS - 1961

Area (in acres)	124,152
Population, 1931 (Census)	19,962
Population, 1951 (Census)	24,508
Estimated Population, 1961	25,090
Estimated number of separate Dwellings occupied, 1961	6,480
Estimated Rateable Value at 1st April, 1961	£206,429
Product of a Penny Rate, 1961-62	£824

Section A.

Live Births	437
Rate per 1,000 population	19.67
Ditto for Administrative County	16.23
Ditto for England and Wales	17.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	4.12
Deaths (all causes)	222
Rate per 1,000 population	10.34
Ditto for Administrative County	12.3
Ditto for England and Wales	12.0
Still Births	4
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	9.07
Ditto for Administrative County	15.63
Ditto for England and Wales	18.7
Total Live and Still Births	441
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	9
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births	20.6
Ditto for Administrative County	19.33
Ditto for England and Wales	21.4
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Births	19.09
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	55.5
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total Live Births).	13.73
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live Births)	16.02
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Still Births and Deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births).	22.67
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	
Number of Deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	NIL

Section B.

1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.
Norfolk Executive Council, 54 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich.
Clerk: F. H. Adams Esq.

2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.
Senior Administrative Medical Officer: DR. J. B. EWEN, M.D., D.P.H.
Croft-Holme, 117 Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

(a) General.
(i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
(ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
(iii) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
(iv) St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn (for chronic sick).
(v) The Howdale Home, Downham Market.

(b) Maternity.
(i) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).
(ii) Adenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
(iii) Bowthorpe Maternity Hospital, Wisbech.

(c) Infectious.
(i) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
(ii) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.
(iii) Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

(d) Sanatoria.
(i) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) Mental.
(i) St. Andrew's, Norwich.
(ii) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
(iii) Little Plumstead, Norwich.

3. MATERNITY SERVICES.

(a) District Nurses (showing Parishes and Villages served):-

Nurse Bodnar (temp.), Nurses House, Fir Close, Mundford. (Feltwell, Hockwold).

Nurse Hunns, Stoke Ferry Road, Methwold, Thetford.(Methwold).

Nurse Smith, Nurse's Cottage, Stow, King's Lynn. (Wimbotsham, Stow, Wormegay, South Runcton, Stone Cross Estate).

Nurse O'Leary, Nurse's Home, Nordelph. (Downham West, Nordelph).

Nurse Harris, Nurse's House, Buckenham Drive, Stoke Ferry. (Northwold, Stoke Ferry, Whittington).

Nurse Akred, 6 Queen's Place, Wiggenhall St. Germans. (Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin, Wiggenhall St. Germans, Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen, Watlington, Tottenhill).

Nurse Delamore, Nurses House, Stow Bridge. (Marham, Shouldham, Shouldham Thorpe, Stradsett, Fincham, Barton Bendish).

Nurse P. A. Tuck, Nurse's House, Hilgay. (Denver, Ryston, Fordham, Hilgay, Southery).

Nurse Williams, 2 Queen's Close, Wereham. (Crimplesham, West Dereham, Wereham, Boughton, Wretton).

Nurse Greensitt, 10 Chapel Lane, West Winch. (Setch).

(b) Maternity.
Beds in Re ional Hospital Board Establishments.

4. AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

This is a County Council function and is controlled by the Joint Ambulance Committee.

The Downham Rural Area is jointly served by the Downham Market, King's Lynn and Thetford Ambulances. Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by East Dereham and King's Lynn Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service is administered from the Local Health Office, 15, Nelson Street, King's Lynn.

5. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.

(a) Wiggenhall St. Germans - Mrs Richer.
(b) Watlington - Mrs. Thomas.
(c) Marham - Mrs. F. Brown
(d) Downham Market - Mrs I. Burbeck.

6. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) Infant Welfare Centres.

(i) Downham Market.
(ii) Wimbotsham.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends at the above Sessions.

In addition, Village Infant Welfare Centres are held monthly at the following villages - Methwold, Hockwold, Hilgay, Northwold, Southery, Shouldham, Stoke Ferry, Welney, West Dereham, Magdalen, Wormegay, St. Germans, Nordelph, Marham, Feltwell and Watlington.

(b) Home Help Service.

The County Home Help Scheme is doing excellent work and Home Helps are available for the following parishes and villages - Barton Bendish, Feltwell, Hockwold, Northwold, Stoke Ferry, Wereham, West Dereham, Stow Bridge, Watlington, Magdalen, St. Germans, Methwold, Denver, Ten Mile Bank, Southery, Hilgay, Fincham, Setch, Tottenhill, Wimbotsham, Runcton Holme and Bexwell.

7. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.
Males: Tuesdays and Fridays - 5.30 p.m.
Females and Children: Tuesdays and Wednesdays - 3p.m.

8. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

9. LABORATORY SERVICES.

(a) Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.
Under the direction of Dr. I. M. Dowsett.

(b) Public Analyst, Dr. Eric Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.
Clarence House, 6 Clarence Road, Norwich.

(c) Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Section C Table No. 1

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1961.

Causes of Death.

	Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	4	4	8
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1	6
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	7	22
15.	Leukaemia	-	1	1
16.	Diabetes	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	22	29
18.	Coronorary disease, angina	19	12	31
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	4	7
20.	Other heart diseases	15	14	29
21.	Other circulatory diseases	12	6	18
22.	Influenza	-	2	2
23.	Pneumonia	2	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	3	4	7
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis, Nephrosis	1	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostrate	2	-	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	2	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	16	13	29
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	5	2	7
34.	All other accidents	2	-	2
35.	Suicide	3	1	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	1	-	1
	All causes.	120	102	222

Table No. 2.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1961

Notification in Age Groups

	AGES													TOTAL	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Age Unknown			
MEASLES	9	37	57	61	83	297	44	3	1	-	-	-	9	601	-	-
WHOOPING COUGH	4	5	1	2	4	14	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	34	-	-
PNEUMONIA	-	-	1	-	3	3	1	1	-	2	3	3	11	28	-	-
INFECTIVE JAUNDICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
SCARLET FEVER	-	-	-	1	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ERYSIPELAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-
NON-PARA POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARALYTIC POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DYSENTERY	-	-	-	2	1	13	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	21	-	-
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MENINGITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENCEPHALITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DIPHTHERIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	13	42	59	66	91	331	53	5	3	3	4	3	24	697	-	-

Table No. 3

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1961

(Other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
MEASLES	37	143	114	49	2	12	85	61	72	15	1	10	601
WHOOPING COUGH	-	-	-	17	9	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	34
PNEUMONIA	2	9	4	3	-	1	1	-	4	-	1	3	28
INF. JAUNDICE	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
SCARLET FEVER	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	2	8
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ERYSIPELAS	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
NON-PARA POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARALYTIC POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DYSENTERY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	17	21
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENCEPHALITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MENINGITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	39	154	119	69	11	22	89	62	78	15	7	32	697

Table No. 4.

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS - 1961

AGE IN YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
T O T A L S	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION D.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a summary of the Council's public health work during 1961. The work of the public health department was disrupted to some extent by the departure of Mr. G.L. Field, after 10 years service with the Council, and a reduction in the number of visits over a period of three months was unavoidable. Mr. Ford, his successor from the City of Bradford has experience of a completely different type of area which is proving to be stimulating.

The commencement of the Southery Sewerage Scheme was particularly notable during the year, and I would again stress the immense value of such schemes. The worry, frustration and bad tempers caused by overflowing cesspools can only really be appreciated at the end of a public health department telephone!

Considerable progress in the housing field was made, and at last the end of the Stone Cross Estate problem is in sight. However, the increasing tendency of young couples to purchase a caravan, a depreciating asset, to solve their permanent housing difficulties is to be deprecated. Mainly on the ground of space restrictions, a caravan is not a suitable place to bring up a family. The number of caravans in the area is increasing, and there seems to be a strong case for the resumption of building Council accommodation for general needs, unless of course house purchase can be made easier by other methods.

Mention should be made of the considerable extension of useful powers given to all District Councils by the Public Health Act, 1961, and also of the need for everyone to keep up a ceaseless campaign against rats.

I am indebted to the Council and my colleagues for the help, advice and general co-operation I received during the year, and in particular to Mr. Field for his valuable assistance over a long period.

Summary of Visits.

Water Supply	26
Drainage	560
Refuse Collection and Disposal	175
Rodent Control	15
Petroleum	17
Moveable Dwellings	90
Factories	4
Housing	698
Licensed Premises	4
Meat Inspection	699
Slaughterhouses	15
Milk & Dairies	5
Bakehouses	9
Food premises	112
Infectious Disease	31
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	304
Outworkers	1
Atmospheric Pollution	9
Street Numbering	10
Total	2784

1960 - 3495. 1959 - 3514. 1958 - 3493.



COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

238 complaints were entered in the Register, investigated and dealt with (180 in 1960).

The complaints were mainly of unsatisfactory drainage, housing defects and smells from accumulations of refuse, manure and the keeping of animals. The number of complaints from the public is increasing, and mainly the increase is due to drainage troubles. There is no doubt, that every additional cesspool installed is a potential menace! A marked decline in complaints about bad housing, however reflects the great improvement which has taken place over the last ten years. The "leaking roof" is rarely heard of these days.

NOTICES SERVED.

The number of written notices other than housing Act Notices served during the year was 36, classified as follows:-

	Informal (Letters)	Statutory	Complied with.	Complied with Notices served during 1959/60.
Housing Repairs	6	-	4	3
Drainage and Sanitation	5	-	4	4
Food Premises	16	-	3	1
Miscellaneous	7	-	5	2
Petroleum	1	-	1	1
Moveable Dwellings	1	-	1	1
Totals	36	-	18	12

In addition, verbal notice was sufficient in numerous cases to bring about the improvements required, or to secure the abatement of nuisances.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

(a) General.

Routine inspection of food premises showed that the protection of foodstuffs from contamination and the general hygienic standard continued to improve. Again, there were not enough routine visits carried out owing to the demands of other work. This is a pity, as much valuable educational work can be carried out during these visits.

A fairly severe outbreak of food poisoning occurred at Southery during the year which your Medical Officer has commented on at length. There are certain types of germs which cause food poisoning symptoms, and the severity of an outbreak is directly related to the number of germs able to develop, which is controlled by food hygiene precautions moisture and temperature and a suitable medium for growth. In the Southery outbreak, specific germs were present, and they were apparently allowed to develop rapidly overnight by the slow cooling of cooked ham in the original water. The method of preparation was normal and surprise was expressed that trouble had not been encountered previously.

The premises and equipment were visually clean, the ham looked perfectly fit for food, yet certain practices were defective or insufficient resulting in the outbreak.

The main trouble in my opinion was the slow cooling of the ham in the cooking water. It is necessary for cooling to take place in water, apparently, to preserve flavour and texture, but it is important that the cooking water should be drawn off and replaced by cold water for a period, after which the ham should be placed under refrigeration for about 12 hours. Rapid cooling of any cooked meats is absolutely of prime importance, whilst trays and refrigerators too require frequent and thorough cleansing with detergents and sterilising agents.

Enquiries were made during the year regarding the use of deep-freeze cabinets in food shops for the storage of quick frozen foods. It was found that cabinets were frequently overloaded, and correct temperatures were not being preserved. There was a lack of uniformity in the practices adopted by various firms for dealing with produce affected by power cuts, and it is understood that the matter is receiving attention. The adoption of a definite procedure by shop-keepers to ensure a regular turnover of perishable stock is essential, and this particularly applies to frozen foods! It is important that quick frozen food is transported, delivered, displayed, stored and sold at 0°F. to avoid quality loss. A retailer must rush his deliveries into the cabinet, place new stock at the bottom and check the cabinet temperature daily. He must not stock products in the cabinet above the food line and should defrost frequently. Any retailer with a problem should be quick to seek the advice of the firm supplying his goods, most of whom employ experienced refrigeration engineers to give free advice.

At the 31st December, there were in the District:-

2	Fishmongers (selling wet fish) including 1 mobile unit.
9	Fish Friers (including 1 mobile unit).
8	Bakehouses.
20	Butchers Shops.
6	Licensed Slaughterhouses.
4	Cafes.
88	Licensed Houses.
105	General Food Shops.
6	Shops selling sweets and lemonade.
3	Bakers and Confectioners.
4	Vans delivering bread and confectionery.
17	Suppliers of Milk.
2	Factory Canteens.
1	Chemist.
11	Mobile Food Shops operating.

(b) Ice-Cream.

5 new premises were registered during the year. At 31st December, 89 premises were selling ice-cream, including fruit ices, all of it being prepared and pre-packed by the large companies. No manufacture of ice-cream is carried on in the District.

No samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination during the year, but it is hoped to resume in 1962. Examination of results taken in neighbouring areas showed that high standards are being maintained in the production of this commodity.

(c) Slaughterhouses.

Six slaughterhouses were licensed during the year. They were all small and catered only for the requirements of the individual butchers.

1 at Marham.
2 at Stoke Ferry.
1 at Feltwell.
1 at Methwold.
1 at Stow Bridge.

No complaints arose from the public owing to the use of the slaughterhouses, and generally hygienic standards were good, although some frequently occurring matters on which I have to ask for improvement are as follows -

1. Inadequate washing of inedible offal containers resulting in smell and fly breeding.

2. The absence of lids on such containers or the presence of lids so battered as to be useless against insect breeding.

3. Failure to apply insecticide to manure heaps and to the outsides of premises.

4. Failure to arrange adequately for the identification of offal with a particular carcase.

As regards the improved standards with which all slaughterhouses would soon have to comply, the local Butchers' Association asked for a postponement of the 'Appointed Day' fixed as 1st October, 1961 for this District, on the grounds that the works required at several slaughterhouses could not be carried out in time. After due consideration and consultation with the Ministry, the new date was fixed as 1st April, 1962.

Plans in respect of two "new" slaughterhouses, one at Methwold and one at Stoke Ferry, were approved during the year due to their being considerably extended.

(d) Slaughtermen.

The number of licensed slaughtermen in the District at 31st December, 1961 was 27. It is interesting to note that quite a lot of these men keep their licences from a sentimental point of view, and do not practice their craft.

(e) Meat Inspection.

100% inspection of carcases after slaughter was maintained with the ready co-operation of the butchers. There was again only a small amount of overtime working, but the number of animals slaughtered increased.

Again only prime animals were slaughtered for sale, there being no cows, and generally beasts were slaughtered in their second year. It is a pity that beef carcases are not 'hung' for a longer period these days, as the meat would be a good deal more tender!

It is pleasing to report that for the first time there was no tuberculosis found in cattle, and the general incidence of disease was diminished.

There was an increased incidence of tuberculosis in pigs, however, although this infection was usually confined to lesions in the submaxilliary and/or mesenteric lymph nodes. It is suspected that the bulk of infection is of avian origin.

Several specimens of rare conditions were sent to the Veterinary Investigation Centre at Mile Cross Lane, Norwich, for examination.

(f) CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART DURING THE YEAR.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	790	-	-	1627	2088	-
Number inspected	790	-	-	1627	2088	-
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	39	-	-	4	57	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	4.94%	-	-	.25%	.28%	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	83	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	.4%	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Weight of Condemned Meat.

		lbs.
Beasts		
	Head and Offal	720
	Carcase Meat	53
Pigs		
	Head and Offal ..	835
	Carcase Meat	29½
Sheep		
	Offal	10
	Carcase Meat	-
	Total	1647½ lbs.

(g) Condemned Food.

In addition to the meat mentioned above, the following food has been condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

133 lb. 2 Oz.	Cooked Ham
3 lb.	Cooked Pork.
4 lb.	Pressed Beef.
1 lb.	Luncheon Meat.
2½lb.	Pork Pies.
2 lb.	Steak & Kidney Pies.
1 lb.	Veal, Ham & Egg Pie.
6 lb.	Tongue
11 lb.	Cheese
33 lb.	Dried Milk.
½ lb.	Dessicated Coconut.
1 packet	Cornflour.
9 lb.	Fish Dressing.
20 lb.	Tinned Lambs Liver.
18½lb.	Lambs Liver.
5 lb.	Pigs Liver.
28 lb.	Imported Beasts Liver.
12 lb.	Beasts Liver.
159 lb.	Top side beef.
207 lb.	Hindquarter of beef.
30 lb.	Beef.
6½ lb.	Imported Mutton.
9¾lb.	Canterbury Lamb.
45 lb.	Bacon.
38 lb.	Pork fillets.

(h) Registration of Premises for the Preparation of Sausages, etc.

15 butchers' premises were registered at the end of the year, and conditions remained satisfactory.

(i) Food Contamination.

2 complaints only were received and investigated, one relating to a piece of metal in a fruit pie and the other relating to glass in a bottle of milk. Prosecutions were not considered necessary.

(j) Milk and Dairies.

This District is in a "Specified Area", and only designated milk can be sold. The County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority is now responsible for the issue of all designated milk licences to Dealers. This Council remains responsible for the registration of milk distributors and of any premises used by them for the treatment, storage and distribution of milk. "Distributor" generally means a person trading as a dairyman elsewhere than at or from premises in relation to which he is registered as a dairy farmer under the regulations.

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The Council therefore is concerned with the cleanliness of milk, utensils and appliances and the protection of milk against contamination or infection other than at or from dairy farmers' premises, although your Medical Officer of Health has certain overall powers with regard to infection of milk at all premises where milk is handled.

8 Dairies and 30 Distributors are registered with the Council.

Concern is felt about the way in which some distributors without premises have bottled milk left in yards etc. before it is loaded on to their own vehicle for distribution. The bottles can easily become fouled by animals or heated by the rays of the sun.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is only one licenced Knackers Yard in the District at High Street, Fincham, and conditions during the year were satisfactory. Only a small business is carried on.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There were 8 site licences for trailer caravans issued during the year under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, which had come into operation on 29th August, 1960. One of these was for a large new site for 52 caravans at Marham.

Licences cannot be issued until Planning permission has been obtained, and the work of deciding upon the planning position in respect of each existing caravan site in Norfolk presented the Norfolk County Council with a formidable administration problem. Consultation with this Council took place throughout the year. Meanwhile, existing sites involving some 200 residential caravans continued to exist, and more caravans seemed to be arriving every day.

There are two sites for 10 caravans each at Shouldham and another for 35 at Feltwell. The majority of residential caravans are occupied by personnel serving at Feltwell and Marham R.A.F. Stations.

One of the main problems associated with caravans is the person who stations his home on a site with the permission only of the occupier of the land. When an Officer of the Council discovers it, the caravan occupier immediately professes ignorance of the law and asks for application forms for planning permission and a licence. The licence application has to be made by the occupier of the land, but planning permission can be applied for by the occupier of the caravan. By the time the question of plans, forms etc. has been settled and a planning decision has been made, a long time can elapse. Usually, the caravan is the applicant's only home, and he states that he must be allowed to go somewhere! Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that prosecutions will soon be necessary under Section 1 of the Act to impress upon the public the importance of seeking prior permission for the stationing of caravans, and to prevent the situation getting out of hand.

HOUSING.

(a) Housing Acts and Council Housing.

34 houses, mainly bungalows, were completed during the year, and all were to meet slum clearance needs. Another 30 were under construction.

39 families were rehoused from unfit dwellings, including 26 from Council owned property.

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The further needs of the slum clearance programme were considered during the year, and the Council decided to build further houses as under:-

Hockwold	- 6 Bungalows	Wormegay	- 2 Bungalows
Methwold	- 2 Bungalows	Southery	- 4 Bungalows
Northwold	- 3 Bungalows	Stoke Ferry	- 2 Bungalows
Welney	- 4 Bungalows	Stow Bridge	- 4 Bungalows
Whittington	- 2 Bungalows	Denver	- 2 Bungalows
Wimbotsham	- 2 Bungalows	Feltwell	- 6 Bungalows
	2 Houses		2 Houses.

28 pre-war houses were modernised during the year by the addition of bath, lavatory basins and w.cs., hot and cold water supplies, drainage systems and fuel stores. Improvements at a further 46 houses were in progress.

During the year, Discretionary Improvement Grants were approved in respect of 26 dwellings and Standard Grants in respect of 32 dwellings. Most of the grants are made in respect of owner/occupied property. Your Offices consider this work most interesting and well worth while.

(b) Rent Act, 1957.

1 Certificate of Disrepair was issued by the Council and no application was refused.

1 Undertaking to repair by an owner was accepted and 1 application for cancellation was granted.

(c) Temporary Hutments, Stone Cross Estate.

At 31st December, 25 dwellings remained in occupation (57 at 31st December, 1960). They are closed or demolished when vacated, although your Housing Manager is authorised to utilise the best accommodation by transfers.

(d) Waiting List.

On 1st November, 1961 following the annual revision there were 411 individual applications for accommodation registered, figures for previous years being as under:-

1960	-	414
1959	-	364
1958	-	363
1957	-	331
1956	-	314
1955	-	301

The Parishes of Stoke Ferry, Feltwell and Denver had most applications in that order.

(e) Summary of Council Dwellings at 31st December.

Traditional Houses.	
(a) Pre-war	420
(b) Post-war	792
Pre-fabricated Permanent Houses.	
(Aireys and Swedish)	76
Stone Cross Temporary Hutments	25
Flats	8
Other Properties.	
Downham Market	7
Stoke Ferry	3
Nordelph	2
Total	1333

(f) Private Enterprise Housing

66 Permanent houses and bungalows were completed during the year, and 70 were under construction.

(55 in 1960, 41 in 1959, 33 in 1958, 34 in 1957 and 19 in 1956).

HOUSING ACT ACTION

1st January to 31st December, 1961.

	Demolition Orders made.	Closing Orders made	Undertakings not to relet accepted.	Unfit Dwellings Vol. Demolished.	Unfit Dwellings Demolished Formal action.	Unfit Dwellings rep. formal action.	Unfit Dwellings purchased.	Cat. 5 Dwellings still to be dealt with
Barton Bendish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Boughton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Crimplesham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Denver	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	10
Dereham West	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	4
Downham West incl. Salter's Lode	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	17
Feltwell	-	9	-	-	1	1	-	19
Fincham	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9
Fordham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hilgay incl. Ten Mile Bank	1	1	-	-	10	-	-	36
Hockwold	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	18
Marham	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7
Methwold	-	1	-	1	5	1	-	9
Nordelph	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Northwold	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	10
Runcton Holme	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Ryston incl. Stone X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Shouldham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Shouldham Thorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Southery	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	18
Stoke Ferry	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	12
Stow Bardolph	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	18
Stradsett	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tottenhill	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9
Watlington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Welney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Wereham	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	3
Wiggenhall St. Germans ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Wigg. St. Mary Magdalen .	-	-	1	-	7	1	-	5
Wigg. St. Mary the Virgin	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	1
Wimbotsham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Wormegay	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7
Wretton	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Totals	20	20	2	2	36	8	-	318
Figures for 1960	54	32	1	12	49	4	-	337
- do - 1959	39	37	14	9	27	11	6	374
- do - 1958	35	26	6	9	30	11	4	445

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The fortnightly "kerbside" collection of refuse continued throughout the District, although some properties received a less frequent service, mainly by agreement. As in the country as a whole, refuse continued to become bulkier and lighter. Experiments proved that it was possible to pack one third as much refuse again into the Dual Tipping Refuse Vehicle as in the Moving Floor Vehicle, a big saving where the average haul to a tip is about four miles.

Four and often five men were employed on the two vehicles used for collection, whilst one man is employed on tip control and the haulage of cover.

The Fordson tractor with foreloading bucket and blade continued to give good service. Full advantage was again taken of large quantities of soil loaded free by the British Sugar Corporation at Wissington Factory for tip control.

The tips are frequently treated for rats and other vermin by the Rodent Operator.

A full service was given at holiday times, although adverse comments were frequently made when the open Bedford Truck had to be used to supplement the other vehicles. This vehicle is quite unsuited to refuse collection, but the Council do not possess a spare vehicle.

It is hoped that the Council will eventually further consider the advisability of instituting a bin provision scheme in the District as provided for in the Public Health Act, 1936, so that the use of assorted and unsuitable containers without lids can be discontinued.

Refuse Tips in full use during the year were situated at Magdalen, Shouldham, Fincham, Feltwell and Ten Mile Bank. Tips at Whittington and Wereham were covered and closed, and new ones were opened at Wereham, Northwold and Whittington during the year. The few minor fires which occurred were easily dealt with.

(b) Salvage of Waste Paper.

Clean waste paper is baled by the Council's employees in their own time at fixed rates per bale.

16 tons were despatched during the year ended 31st March, 1962, and a surplus of £80 resulted. The Council has a five year contract with a Board Mill, which was renewed during the year.

(c) Pail Emptying.

Pail closets were emptied once weekly during the daytime in the Parishes of Hilgay, Denver, Downham West, Fincham and Feltwell, 2½ days per week being spent on this work. Half of the cost of this work is borne by the General Rate fund and half by the parishes concerned by special rate. When the Cesspool Emptying vehicle used for this work breaks down for any length of time, Tovey Trans-Port Ltd., carry out the work.

The use of the tractor and equipment for the construction of straw composting bays forpail contents considerably eased the disposal situation, and several of these are in use on private land. Acknowledgement is made to the co-operation of farmers in this connection. Disposal difficulties do arise at times, as with the disposal of cesspool contents.

The number of pails emptied in the various parishes are as follows:-

Hilgay-193, Downham West-37, Denver-64, Fincham-75, Feltwell-120.

(d) Cesspool Emptying, etc.

In addition to the work carried out on pail emptying, the Council's machine dealt with cesspools and Council Sewage Plants etc., and figures are set out below for recent years. Sewage Plants are desludged at four monthly intervals, which is the absolute minimum required for proper operation, and more frequent attention is desirable. In bad weather it is impossible to reach certain of these plants due to unsatisfactory accesses, and a delay in desludging has an inevitable adverse effect on the plant.

Service has also to be given on occasions to pumping wells at sewage plants in order to prevent damage to electrical gear and to certain other tanks and silt traps in the District.

No. of cesspools emptied.

Year	Tovey Transport Ltd.	Council	Total
1959	153	405	558
1960	230	408	638
1961	466	312	778
Sewage Plants and tanks emptied.			
1959	-	70	70
1960	-	93	93
1961	2	58	60

(High figures for 1959 and 1960 due to trouble at sewage pumping wells.)

It will be evident that Tovey Transport Ltd., who are providing a vehicle and two men at a charge of £12 per day, are increasingly taking over the emptying of private cesspools. There are frequent complaints about the time taken to give this service, which is a pre-payment service, and as the number of cesspools installed in the area continues to increase, the question of future policy will have to be considered.

The Council's charge for emptying cesspools is £1 for the first two loads and 10/- for each additional load, whilst an average of five cesspools is normally dealt with in a day.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Contractor commenced work on the Southery Sewerage Scheme on 6th March, a resident engineer, Mr. H. Dewson-Smith having been appointed on 13th February, 1961.

The work progressed smoothly, with the exception of two short sections where trouble with running sand was experienced. Progress was up to schedule by the end of the year.

Work on the Hilgay Sewerage Scheme being prepared by your Surveyor's Department was retarded due to other urgent commitments. A drainage survey of the village in connection with this scheme was carried out by the Health Department during the year.

Further schemes for the villages of Feltwell, Denver and Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen were also being prepared for the Council by the County Public Health Engineer's Department.

The Council maintained a public sewer and ejector station at Downham West, from which sewage is pumped into the Downham Urban District Council's system. In addition, a further 22 plants serving Council property were regularly maintained by the Sruveyor's Department.

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Periodical cleansing of "sewerage dykes" to minimise nuisance was carried out, and sub-irrigation soakaways were installed on numerous troublesome cesspools on Council Housing Estates.

The Great Ouse River Board gave notice that it would be necessary to alter a small sewerage system at Methwold Hythe due to the position of the "Cut-off" channel. It was expected that the work would be carried out in 1962.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 50.

No burials were carried out by the Council during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957.

The object of this order made under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950 is to prevent the spread by waste foods of Foot and Mouth disease, swine fever, fowl pest and other diseases. Administration was delegated to the Council by the County Council as from 1st October, 1959.

11 Licences were in force and 5 inspections were made during the year.

The proper sterilisation of "Swill" is considered highly important by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

PROPOSED SWIMMING POOL.

The building of this pool, which the Council had decided to provide in conjunction with the Downham Market Urban District Council in March, 1959 was delayed pending a decision as to site location. Several Meetings of the Joint Committee took place during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) Main Piped Supplies.

The Wisbech and District Water Board were responsible for 2 sources of supply to the Rural District, viz., the northern half from the River Nar and bore at Marham and the southern half from the bore at Denton Lodge, Feltwell.

I am indebted to the Board's Engineer and Manager, Mr. C. Llanwarne, B.Sc.Tech., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., for the following information:-

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

Water Analyses, 1959. Downham Rural District.

Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1961 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilized, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

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Samples taken.

Board's Works	No. of Tests taken.	Bacteriological Examinations. No. of Tests Negative.	No. of Tests Positive	Chemical Analyses.
Raw waters	188	164	24	
Treated waters	408	404	4	
Taps (consumers)	56	56	-	
TOTALS	652	624	28	155

Total of all examinations and analyses 807

Out of the total number of treated water samples and samples taken from consumers' taps, 99.1% were negative on examination for organisms of the Coliform group. This represents a continued very high standard of bacterial purity.

J. S. COLLINS,

Chemist and Bacteriologist.

19th January, 1962.

NEW MAINS LAID DURING 1961.

Mill Road, Wiggenhall St. German (Renewal)	312	yards	4 in.p.v.c.
Wereham Fen (Flood Protection Scheme)	207	"	3 in. A.C.
R.A.F. Marham Housing Sites:			
Site 'A'	474	"	2 in.A.C.
	1077	"	3"in.A.C.
Site 'B'	320	"	3 in.A.C.
Site 'C'	364	"	3 in.A.C.
Burnthouse Drove, Marham	1091	"	6 in.A.C.
Mill Drove, Southery	203	"	2"in.A.C.
Market Lane Housing Site, Crimplesham	70	"	3 in.S.I.
Lodge Road Housing Site, Feltwell	140	"	3 in.S.I.
Marham Fen (Nos. 5 and 6 Boreholes)	151	"	6 in.A.C.
Gravel House, Fordham	1486	"	2 in.p.v.c.
Sir Lindsay Parkinson:			
Poppylot Bridge Diversion	104	"	6 in.S.I.
Wereham Fen Bridge	160	"	3 in.A.C.
	8	"	3 in.p.v.c.
Fourth Downham Rural Extension Scheme :			
Scheme No. D13, Thieve Bridge Road, Watlington .	986	"	3 in.A.C.
Scheme No. D14, Wretton Fen Drove	612	"	3 in.S.I.
	588	"	3 in.S.I.
Scheme No. D15, Stoke Drove, Stoke Ferry	534	"	3"in.S.I.
Scheme No. D16, Sandy Lane, Denver	643	"	3 in.C.I.
Scheme No. D.17, Park Lane, Denver	373	"	3 in A.C.
Scheme No. D18, Lakenheath Road, Feltwell	60	"	3 in.S.I.
Scheme No. D19, Abbey Station Road, West Dereham	756	"	3"in.S.I.
Scheme No. D20, Leonards Lane, Feltwell	310	"	2 in.A.C.
	6	"	3 in.S.I.
Scheme No. D21, Stoke Ferry Road, Wormegay	1081	"	3 in.A.C.
Scheme No. D22, Mill Lane, Wimbotsham	154	"	3 in.A.C.
Scheme No. D23, Mill Drove, Southery	303	"	2 in.A.C.
Scheme No. D24, West Dereham Road, Wretton	457	"	3 in.A.C.

NEW SUPPLIES - January to December, 1961.

Fordham	7	Wereham	9
Hockwold	18	Wimbotsham	6
Methwold	7	Hilgay	7
Shouldham	3	Ryston	3
South Runcton	1	Stoke Ferry	14
West Dereham	8	Southery	12
Wormegay	6	Stow Bardolph	2
Bexwell	1	Runcton Holme	2
Denver	16	Wigg. St. Mary Magdalen	2
Feltwell	17	Crimplesham	4
Marham	47	Northwold	3
Salters Lode	1	Wretton	7
Welney	5	Saddlebow	1
Watlington	8	Total	217

SMALL WATER SUPPLIES.

No samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, but several investigations were made relating to the alleged drying up of wells etc. at isolated properties bordering on the works in connection with the River Board's "Cut-off" channel. Many difficulties were solved, however, owing to the timely carrying out of several mains extension schemes.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1959.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	55	19	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	39	13	-	-
Totals....	98	34	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

No defects were found, but it was not possible to carry out sufficient inspections under this Act.

Part VIII of the Act.

No outworkers are known to be employed in the District.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

The Council were successful in a prosecution under Section 16(2) of the above Act against an Agricultural Engineer and scrap metal merchant who persistently burned rubber and upholstery from motor vehicles in his yard. The black smoke and fumes resulting were proved to be a serious nuisance to surrounding householders. An order was made prohibiting a recurrence of the nuisance, and a period of three months was allowed for any necessary precaution to be taken. In addition, costs amounting to £10.1.0. were awarded.

DESTRUCTION OF PESTS.

(a) Rats and Mice.

The Council employ one Rodent Operative equipped with a small van and the necessary equipment. A lock-up store is provided for poisons and baits.

The main poison used was Warfarin, which is still the most effective and easily applied poison for general use, whilst the bait base mainly used was Wheatmeal. Other poisons and spoon gassing by Cyanide powder were used in special situations.

649 separate treatments were carried out and 2,649 visits were made during the year.

The Council are charged with the duty of ensuring that owners and occupiers keep their premises and land free of rats and mice. Whilst free treatment or advice was given at domestic premises, a charge of 10/- per hour was made at a limited number of business and agricultural premises.

A private pest control undertaking based at Hilgay continued to operate on Agricultural Land.

Towards the end of the year, reports on rat infestations increased dramatically, and it was soon apparent that there was a large increase in the rat population throughout the Eastern Counties of England.

Concern was expressed on all sides, and measures to fight what could be a serious public health as well as an economic hazard were being considered.

Several fatalities from the disease known as Weil's disease were reported in the Eastern Counties. This disease has a mortality rate of 30% in people over middle age, and tests have shown that one rat in every two carried the organism of the disease in its kidneys. For the whole of its life every place where a carrier rat urinates becomes a possible source of human disease. The disease is always associated with damp conditions, and no one should pick up dead rats with their bare hands, especially so without covering cuts and sores. There are, of course, six or seven other common diseases in man liable to be carried by rats.

(b) Other pests.

The Refuse Tips were treated regularly with insecticide against fly and cricket infestations, and private premises were occasionally treated for cockroach, flea, ant and silverfish infestations. In addition, several wasps nests were destroyed.

There were many complaints from the village of Boughton of heavy fly infestation during the Summer, and the matter was investigated thoroughly. The type of fly responsible was a small variety of house fly (Fannia Canicularis) which breeds in all kinds of organic matter in country areas.

It was thought that Boughton was infested to a greater degree than some villages due to the fact that there were a number of poultry and pig farms situated strategically within the village. Letters were sent to the farmers concerned, and special advice was given in several instances. The type of fly concerned is, however, very difficult to control owing to its diverse breeding sites.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. S. SENNITT,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

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I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. SUMMIT,

Senior Public Health Inspector.